



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon  
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## Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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### Visitor Fatalities in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

*SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS, CALIFORNIA*—A visitor died when he fell over Mist Falls in Kings Canyon National Park on Thursday, June 20. The weekend prior, a hiker died of an apparent heart attack in the Mineral King area of Sequoia National Park.

On June 20, David Breuer, 47, of Mishawaka, Indiana, was with his family at Mist Falls, a cascade 4 trail miles from Road's End in the Kings Canyon. He left the trail to approach the top of the falls, then slipped and fell into the cascade. Other visitors attempted CPR, but it was not successful. Park rangers transported the victim's body via helicopter, and subsequently transferred it to the Fresno County Coroner's Office.

On the evening of June 14, a 60-year-old man died while hiking a trail in the Mineral King Valley. Joe Lopez, of Bakersfield, California, was approaching 10,000 feet in elevation on the Eagle Lake Trail when he suddenly collapsed. His brother, with whom he'd been backpacking, attempted CPR but could not revive him. Park rangers recovered his body with the help of a helicopter, and transferred it to the Tulare County Coroner.

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### SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Visitor activities vary by season and elevation. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki) or call 559-565-3341.